

PURE *M*ICHIGAN®  
Potatoes

# Michigan Potato Update

# Michigan Potato Industry

- Less than 100 potato operations
- 44,000 acres
- \$166 Million farm gate value
- #6 based on value of potatoes
- #1 state in production of potatoes for potato chips
- Nearly all acres are irrigated



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# Michigan Production

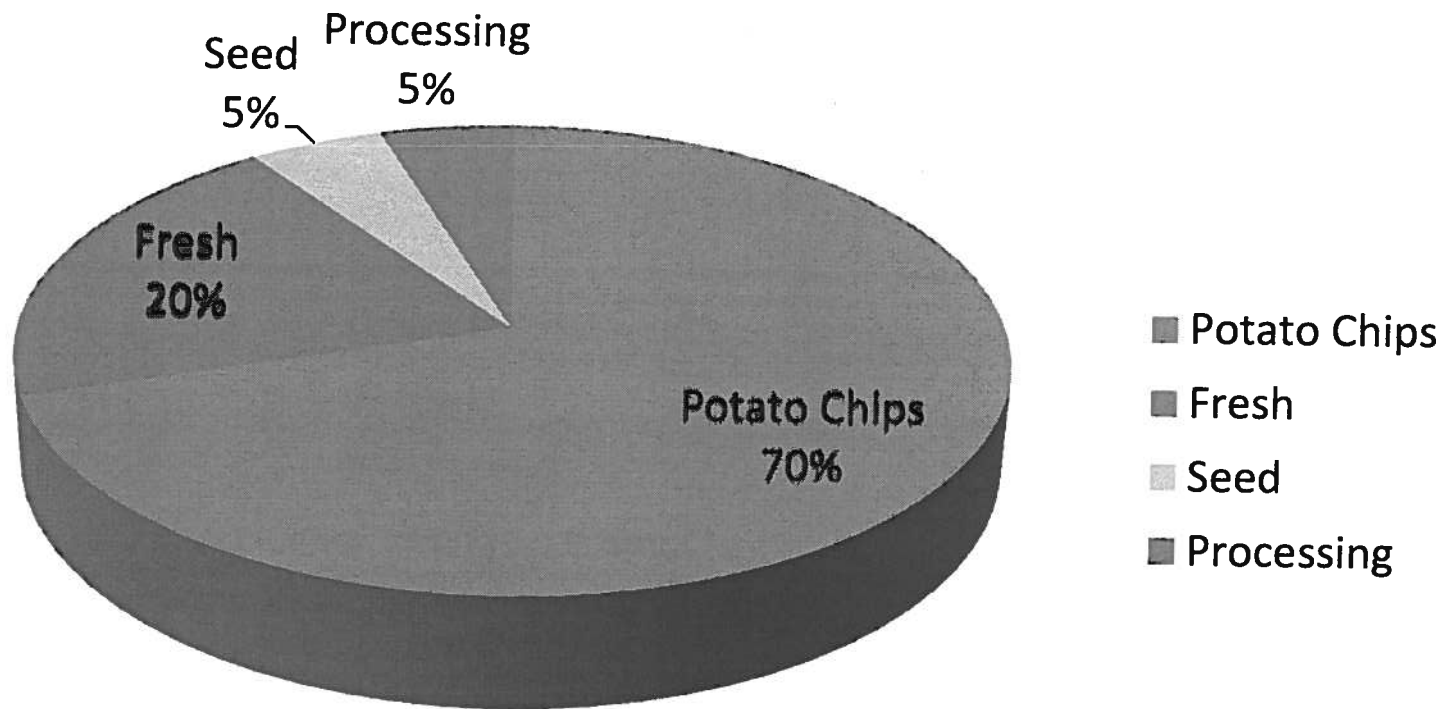
- Grown in 34 counties
- Seed in north and Upper Peninsula
- Chip stock in southern
- Fresh and process throughout state



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# Michigan Potato Utilization



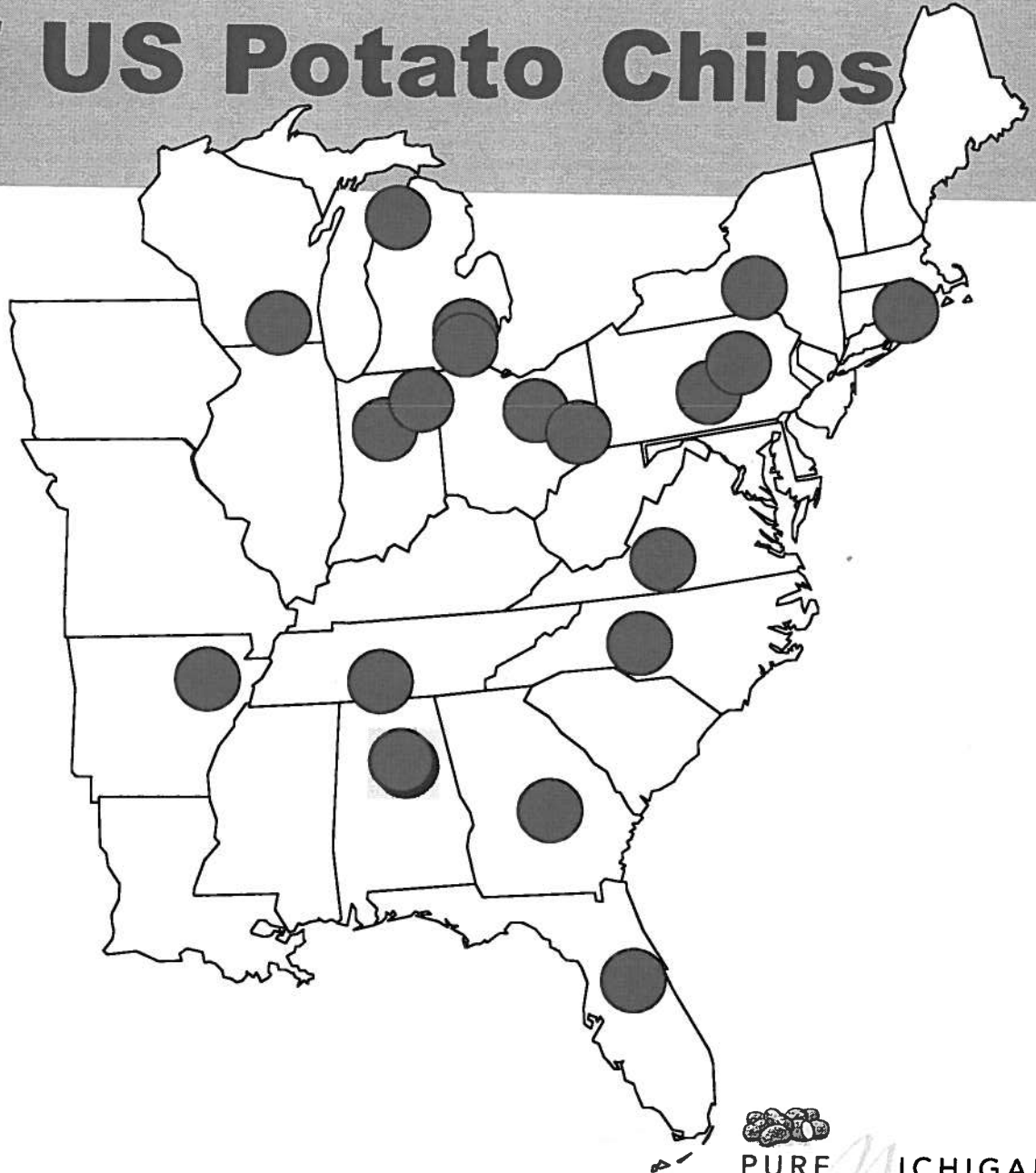
# Processing in Michigan

- Better Made Snack Foods, Inc.
- Uncle Rays, LLC
- Great Lakes Potato Chip Company
- Downey's Potato Chips
- Pellerito Foods, Inc.
- Burnette Foods
- HoneeBear Canning Co.



# Supplier of US Potato Chips

- 70% of all Michigan potatoes are utilized for potato chips
- Michigan supplies 28% of the US with potatoes for chipping



# Commission

- Created under PA 29 of 1970
- Represented by growers, shippers, processors and retailers, appointed by the governor
- To foster, develop and promote the potato industry in Michigan through:
  - Research
  - Promotion
  - Advertising
  - Market expansion
  - Development of new markets
  - Education
  - Development and dissemination of information



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# Structure

- Commissioner Members
  - Randall Styma, Posen (fresh)
  - Pat DuRussel, Manchester (fresh)
  - Duane Anderson, Blanchard (chip)
  - Brian Sackett, Mecosta (chip)
  - Dennis Hanson, Cornell (seed)
  - Greg Iott, Kalkaska (seed)
  - Tim Young, Howard City (at-large)
  - Tim Wilkes, Edmore (shipper)
  - Bill Kitchen, Elmira (fresh shipper)



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# Commission Committees

- Research Committee
- Storage Committee
- Variety Release Committee
- Fresh Committee



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# Research

- Integrator position at Michigan State University
- Research grants
- Storage facility
- Participation in national trials



# Educational Efforts

- Grower Education
- Consumer Education
  - Michigan Ag Council
  - Ag Day at Capitol
  - Potato resources
    - Michigan Potatoes
    - Nutritional value



# Issues

- Availability of sandy soils with water
- Food safety
- Sourcing talent
- Nutritional misinformation
- Decreasing yields

# Future

- Producers specializing in potato production
- Michigan's geology – soils and water
- Proximity to US population
  - Transportation costs
  - Reduced carbon footprint
  - Freshness of product
- Ability to quickly respond to industry needs



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# Questions

For additional information on the Michigan  
Potato Industry Commission, visit  
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Mike Wenkel  
Executive Director  
517-669-8377



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